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STANZIONE & KIM, LLP			NGUYEN, ALLEN H	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/765,851	PARK, DONG-CHAE
	Examiner Allen H. Nguyen	Art Unit 2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 January 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date see attached.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 01/29/2004 and 05/31/2005 has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mori (US 2002/0018233).

Regarding claim 1, Mori '233 discloses a discrimination mark (a watermark 12, fig. 2) print method of a printing system (computer 1, fig. 1) printing data by a printer (printer 7, fig. 1) through a printer driver (3, fig. 1) as a printing command is inputted for the data to be printed, the method comprising:

setting a discrimination mark print function based on a discrimination mark print function setting menu (i.e., a mark selecting unit that selects one of a plurality of marks for each one of the plurality of pages; see page 1, paragraph [0012], fig. 2, Watermark Page Setting 27);

formatting the data by including the discrimination mark based on the set discrimination mark print function (i.e., the watermark setting program is for setting watermarks as marks; see page 2, paragraph [0034], fig. 2);

sending the formatted data to the printer based on the printer driver (i.e., the printer driver 3 converts the image data into print data, and combines selected watermarks with the print data for corresponding pages; see Abstract).

Regarding claim 2, Mori '233 discloses the discrimination mark print method, further comprising selecting a discrimination mark kind based on the set discrimination mark print function (i.e., the printer 7 executes printing operations based on the print job so as to an image on a plurality of pages each formed with a corresponding watermark; see Abstract).

Regarding claim 3, Mori '233 discloses the discrimination mark print method, further comprising setting a starting discrimination mark based on the selected discrimination mark kind (i.e., when the checkbox 27a is checked, the settings indicated on the watermark page setting box 27 are selected in priority over the settings indicated on the watermark print setting box 24; see page 3, paragraph [0043], fig. 2).

Regarding claim 4, Mori '233 discloses the discrimination mark print method, wherein the discrimination mark print function setting menu is a submenu of a printer driver registration information setting menu (a watermark dialog 12 is selected and displayed at the top of the dialogs is the submenu of the print dialog 11, page 3, paragraph [0038], fig. 2).

Regarding claim 5, Mori '233 discloses a control method used with a printing system printing data by a printer through a printer driver as a print command is inputted for the data to be printed, the method comprising:

deciding whether a discrimination mark print function is set based on a discrimination mark print function setting menu having a discrimination mark kind selection group (When the checkbox 27a is checked, the settings indicated on the watermark page setting box 27 are selected in priority over the settings indicated on the watermark print setting box 24, page 3, paragraph [0043]) and/or a starting discrimination mark setting option (if the user wishes to use the settings indicated in the watermark print setting box 24, then the user leaves the checkbox 27a unchecked or removes a checkmark from the checkbox 27a, page 3, paragraph [0043], fig. 2);

checking a discrimination mark kind and/or a starting discrimination mark in a case that the discrimination mark print function is set (Retrieve Selected Watermark, fig. 4, S6);

formatting the data by including a discrimination mark based on the checked discrimination mark kind and/or the starting discrimination mark (Append Watermark to Print Data, fig. 4, S7);

sending the formatted data to the printer based on the printer driver (Output to Printer Interface, fig. 4, S8).

Regarding claim 6, Mori '233 discloses the control method, further comprising: deciding whether next print data and another print command for the next print data are inputted (i.e., the page process is executed when the user inputs a print command after having generated an image at the application 2. Once the page process is started, a page number of a current page is detected; see page 3, paragraph [0045], fig. 4, S1);

updating the current starting discrimination mark to a next starting discrimination mark and repeating the operations of checking a discrimination mark kind and/or a starting discrimination mark to sending the formatted print data to the printer based on the printer driver in case that the next print data and the another print command for the next print data are inputted (i.e., the control method includes the steps of a) generating print data for a document, b) selecting a number of document copies, c) selecting one of a plurality of marks for each one of the document copies, d) combining the selected one of the plurality of marks with the print data, thereby updating the print data, and f) outputting the print data updated in the step d) to the external image forming device,

wherein the steps d) and e) are repeatedly executed for all of the document copies; see page 2, paragraph [0018]).

Regarding claim 7, Mori '233 discloses the control method, wherein the discrimination mark kinds include "Blank," "Arabic numbers," English letters," and "Roman letters" (i.e., the user can change any settings of the watermark as desired on the text box 20 or the bitmap box 21, and the position box 23. When the user presses the OK button, then the watermark is changed according to the settings. Therefore, the plurality of marks include any one or ones of characters and letters; see pages 3-4, paragraph [0034], and [0052] figs. 2-3).

Regarding claim 8, Mori '233 discloses a printing system (1, fig. 1) printing data by a printer (7, fig. 1) through a printer driver (3, fig. 1) as the data and a print command are inputted, comprising:

an input unit (the application 2, fig. 1) to input a print command (the user inputs a print command after having generated an image at the application 2, page 3, paragraph [0045]);

a control unit (CPU 8, fig. 1) to format the data by including a discrimination mark based on a discrimination mark print function if the discrimination mark print function is set through the input unit (i.e., the control device includes a receiving unit that receives the image data from the image data generating unit, a converting unit that converts one-page-worth of the image data into print data; see page 1, paragraph [0012]), and to

send the formatted data based on the print command to the printer based on the printer driver as the print command is inputted for the data through the input unit (i.e., the image information setting program 6 sets various printing settings, and outputs the information as setting information to the information converting program 5. Then, the information converting program 5 outputs the print data appended with the setting information to the printer 7 via the printer interface 4; see page 3, paragraph [0036]).

Regarding claim 9, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, further comprising:

a storage unit (HDD 10, fig. 1) to store a discrimination mark print function setting menu to set the discrimination mark print function (i.e., there is provided a storing medium storing a program of controlling a data generating device communicable with an external image forming device; page 1, paragraph [0015]);

a display unit (a print dialog displayed on a monitor of the computer of fig. 1) to display a print menu based on the print command, wherein the control unit (CPU 8, fig. 1) controls loading the stored discrimination mark print function setting menu and displaying the loaded setting menu on the display unit when a discrimination mark print function setting menu display command is inputted through the input unit as the print command (i.e., the page process is executed when the user inputs a print command after having generated an image at the application 2. Once the page process is started, a page number of a current page is detected (S1), and one-page-worth of the image data is converted into print data for the current page (S2). Next, it is detected whether or

not any watermark is selected for the current page (S3). If not (S3:NO), then the print data is output to the printer interface 4 (S8); see page 3, paragraph [0045], fig. 4).

Regarding claim 10, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, wherein the storage unit (HDD 10, fig. 1) further stores a formatter as a program to format the data (The application 2 is an application program such as a word processing software and the like, page 2, paragraph [0031]), and the control unit (CPU 8) controls the formatting of the data by including the discrimination mark when formatting the print data through the formatter in the case that the discrimination mark print function is set through the input unit (i.e., when a user generates an image including letters and characters, the application 2 is loaded into a predetermined region of the RAM 51, and is executed by the CPU 8; page 2, paragraph [0031]).

Regarding claim 11, Mori '233 discloses a printing system (1, fig. 1) to print data through a printer driver (3, fig. 1) comprising:

a storage unit (HDD 10, fig. 1) comprising:

an application program (Application 2, fig. 1) to prepare a print-target-document by receiving a print command (i.e., when a user generates an image including letters and characters, the application 2 is loaded into a predetermined region of the RAM 51, and is executed by the CPU 8; page 2, paragraph [0031]),

a discrimination mark print function setting menu to select a discrimination mark kind and/or a starting discrimination mark (i.e., when the checkbox 27a is checked, the

settings indicated on the watermark page setting box 27 are selected in priority over the settings indicated on the watermark print setting box 24; see page 3, paragraph [0043], fig. 2),

a formatter (Watermark Page Setting 27, fig. 2) to format the print data and the discrimination mark according to the preset discrimination mark kind and the starting discrimination mark (Append Watermark to Print Data, fig. 4, S7),

the printer driver (3, fig. 1) to convert the print data of the print-target-document to be printed (i.e., the printer driver 3 is loaded into a predetermined region of the RAM 51 and executed by the CPU 8. The printer driver 3 includes an image information converting program 5 and an image information setting program 6; see page 2, paragraph [0032]);

an input unit (the application 2, fig. 1) to input the print command to print to a print-target-document (the user inputs a print command after having generated an image at the application 2, page 3, paragraph [0045]) and a display command for the discrimination mark print function setting menu (Watermark 12, fig. 2);

a control unit (CPU 8, fig. 1) to load and drive the printer driver and the formatter based on the commands inputted through the input unit (i.e., the control device includes a receiving unit that receives the image data from the image data generating unit, a converting unit that converts one-page-worth of the image data into print data; see page 1, paragraph [0012]).

Regarding claim 12, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, further comprising a display unit (17, fig. 3) to display the discrimination mark print function setting menu (a watermark setting dialog 17 displayed on the monitor of the computer, fig. 3), the discrimination marks input (the print dialog 11, fig. 3) and the print data (It should be noted that the user can add a new watermark to the watermark selection list 14, page 3, paragraph [0050]).

Regarding claim 13, Mori '233 discloses a printing system to print data on one or more sheets, comprising:

a control unit (CPU 8, fig. 6) to add a discrimination mark to the data to generate formatted data to be printed on the one or more sheets so that the one or more sheets include the same discrimination mark (i.e., the printer driver 3 of the computer 1 combines watermarks with print data for corresponding pages so as to generate updated print data, and outputting the updated print data as a single print job; see page 4, paragraph [0054]).

Regarding claim 14, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, wherein the control unit receives second data to be printed on one or more second sheets and adds a second discrimination mark to the second data to generate second formatted data to be printed on the one or more second sheets so that the one or more second sheets include the same discrimination mark (i.e., when a user generates image including a first page for a client and a second page for his or her own, the user may select a

"CONFIDENTIAL" watermark for the first page, and a "COPY" watermark for the second page. Then, the printer driver 3 combines the "CONFIDENTIAL" watermark with the print data for the first page so as to produce updated print data for the first page, combines the "COPY" watermark with the print data for the second page so as to produce updated print data for the second page, and then outputs these two sets of the updated print data as a single print job to the printer 7 via the printer interface 4; see page 4, paragraph [0054]).

Regarding claim 15, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, further comprising: a display unit (a watermark setting dialog 17 displayed on the monitor of the computer, fig. 3) to display a discrimination mark print function setting menu showing a discrimination mark kind corresponding to the discrimination mark and the second discrimination mark, wherein one of the discrimination mark and the second discrimination mark is selected according to the data and the second data (i.e., the printer driver 3 of the computer 1 combines watermarks with print data for corresponding pages so as to generate updated print data, and outputting the updated print data as a single print job. In this way, different watermarks can be selected and set for each page in a simple and reliable manner; see page 4, paragraph [0054]).

Regarding claim 16, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, wherein the printing system comprises a printer (printer 7, fig. 6) in which the control unit (CPU 8, fig. 6) is installed.

Regarding claim 17, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, wherein the printing system comprises a computer (computer 1, fig. 6) connectable to a printer (printer 7, fig. 6) printing the data and the second data, and the control unit is installed in the computer outputting the formatted data and the formatted second data to the printer to print the formatted data and the formatted second data on the one or more sheets and the one or more second sheets, respectively (i.e., the printer driver 3 of the computer 1 combines watermarks with print data for corresponding pages so as to generate updated print data, and outputting the updated print data as a single print job. For example, when a user generates image including a first page for a client and a second page for his or her own, the user may select a "CONFIDENTIAL" watermark for the first page, and a "COPY" watermark for the second page. Then, the printer driver 3 combines the "CONFIDENTIAL" watermark with the print data for the first page so as to produce updated print data for the first page, combines the "COPY" watermark with the print data for the second page so as to produce updated print data for the second page, and then outputs these two sets of the updated print data as a single print job to the printer 7 via the printer interface 4. In this way, different watermarks can be selected and set for each page in a simple and reliable manner; see page 4, paragraph 0054]).

Regarding claim 18, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, further comprising: a storage unit to store the discrimination mark and the second discrimination mark and to store a program (a storing medium storing a program for controlling the data generating device, page 1, paragraph [0011]), wherein the discrimination mark and the second

discrimination mark are selected and added to the data and the second data (i.e., the control device includes a receiving unit that receives the image data from the image data generating unit, a converting unit that converts one-page-worth of the image data into print data, a mark selecting unit that selects one of a plurality of marks for each one of the plurality of pages, and a mark combining unit that combines the print data with corresponding one of the plurality of marks selected by the mark selecting unit; see page 1, paragraph [0012]), respectively, according to the program.

Regarding claim 19, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, further comprising: a storage unit (Spool 130/HDD 10, fig. 6) to store a plurality of discrimination marks (The spool 130 temporarily stores image data received from the application 2, and outputs the image data to the image information converting program 5 once for each document copy, page 4, paragraph [0060]), wherein the discrimination mark and the second discrimination mark are selected from the stored discrimination marks (i.e., that is, first the user generates an image at the application 2 of the computer 101, and indicates a number of document copies he or she wishes to obtain. Next, the user performs watermark selection, that is, the user selects whether or not to use any watermark, whether to use a watermark on a first document copy only or commonly on all the document copies, or whether to use a different watermark for each of the document copies; see page 4, paragraph [0061]).

Regarding claim 20, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, wherein the same second discrimination mark is printed on the same location of the one or more second sheets (i.e., once the copy process is started, first a copy number of a current document copy is detected (S101), and the image data is converted to print data (S102). Next, It is detected whether or not any watermark is selected for the current copy (S103). If not (S103:No), then the print-data is output to the printer interface 4, and the present process is ended. If so (S103:YES), then it is detected whether or not a watermark is individually selected for each of the document copies (S104). If so (S104:YES), then a watermark selected for the current document copy is retrieved (S105), and combined with the print data (S107), thereby updating the print data; see page 5, paragraph [0063]).

Regarding claim 21, Mori '233 discloses the printing system, wherein the same discrimination mark is printed on the same location of the one or more sheets (i.e., the user performs watermark selection, that is, the user selects whether or not to use any watermark, whether to use a watermark on a first document copy only or commonly on all the document copies; see page 4, paragraph [0061]).

Regarding claim 22, Mori '233 discloses a method used with a printing system to print data on one or more sheets, the method comprising:
adding a discrimination mark to the data to generate formatted data (i.e., it should be noted that the user can add a new watermark to the watermark selection list

14, change any of the watermarks listed in the watermark selection list 14, and delete an unnecessary watermark from the watermark selection list 14 as desired; see page 3, paragraph [0049]) to be printed on the one or more sheets so that the one or more sheets include the same discrimination mark (i.e., it is detected whether or not a watermark is individually selected for each of the document copies (S104). If so (S104:YES), then a watermark selected for the current document copy is retrieved (S105), and combined with the print data (S107), thereby updating the print data; see page 5, paragraph [0063], fig. 8).

Regarding claim 23, Mori '233 discloses the method, wherein the adding of the discrimination mark to the data comprises locating the discrimination mark on the same location of the one or more sheets in the formatted data (i.e., it is detected whether or not a watermark is individually selected for each of the document copies (S104). If so (S104:YES), then a watermark selected for the current document copy is retrieved (S105), and combined with the print data (S107), thereby updating the print data; see page 5, paragraph [0063], fig. 8).

Regarding claim 24, Mori '233 discloses the method, further comprising: receiving second data to be printed on one or more second sheets (A computer 1 is provided with an application 2 and a printer driver 3. A user of the computer 1 generates image data using the application 2, see Abstract);

adding a second discrimination mark to the second data to generate second formatted data to be printed on the one or more second sheets so that the one or more second sheets include the same discrimination mark (When the image data is for a plurality of pages, the user selects a desired watermark for each of the plurality of pages, see Abstract).

Regarding claim 25, Mori '233 discloses the method, wherein the adding the second discrimination mark to the second data comprises locating the second discrimination mark on the same location of the one or more second sheets in the second formatted data (i.e., it is detected whether or not a watermark is individually selected for each of the document copies (S104). If so (S104:YES), then a watermark selected for the current document copy is retrieved (S105), and combined with the print data (S107), thereby updating the print data; see page 5, paragraph [0063], fig. 8).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Claiborne (US 6,765,688) discloses generic method of defining a watermark for both print and copy.

Terasaki (US 6,947,572) discloses image transmission system, method of the same, and recording medium.

Yu (US 2005/0248809) discloses quick reference to printer setting information.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen H. Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1229. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, King Poon can be reached on (571)-272-7440. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

AN

10/05/2007



KING Y. POON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER